



# STATEWIDE OUTREACH CENTER

*Your Trusted Resource for Deaf Education in Texas*

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*Bobbie Beth's*  
**TIDBITS**

We are thrilled to share some exciting news:

ERCOD is now the **Statewide Outreach Center (SOC) at TSD!** We have been modernized with a new name and logo. Look for changes to our revamped [website](#) as well, where new resources are continuously being added to support families, professionals, and students.



Several students took part in the video announcement of SOC's new name. See the full video [on our website!](#)

Be assured, however, that while our name has changed, there is one thing that will always remain the same: our dedication to the success of all students who are deaf or hard of hearing, and the parents and teachers who support them!

Speaking of teachers, this year, more than ever, teachers deserve to be appreciated, celebrated, and thanked for their hard work and commitment to the students they serve—whether in a physical or virtual classroom. In these trying times, we recognize the changes and challenges teachers have had to face and applaud the tenacity and courage it has taken to continue to inspire and support students and their parents. Thank you!

## Now Featuring Live Chat

Chat with us



Can't find what you're needing or looking for resources? Try SOC's new Live Chat feature! Available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm - 4pm and Wednesdays from 10am-12pm. We look forward to answering your questions!

## Family Weekend Retreat

Family Weekend Retreat (FWR) 2020 will be *virtual* this year at no cost to families! While we are disappointed we can't be



together in person, our sessions and discussion groups will still help you feel connected.

Our presenters will pre-record their sessions and we will post them in an online forum. A written discussion section will be available for each presentation so parents can ask questions and discuss the topic together for a limited amount of time. This format is a unique interactive way to connect, learn, and share!

If you previously registered for Family Weekend Retreat, you will receive an email as we get closer to June with information on how to access the sessions. If you haven't registered for FWR 2020, it's not too late. Complete [this short form](#) to register and you will be able to receive information on how to log in. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [familyservices.support@tsd.state.tx.us](mailto:familyservices.support@tsd.state.tx.us)

## New Additions to ASL Storytelling Library!



At ASL Storytelling, we are working hard to bring teachers, students, and parents more offerings from our talented storytellers. Because we are not able to provide our regular live ASL Storytelling classes, we are offering more ASL videos in our new [Stories From Home](#) section. These are specific book, topic, or content requests from teachers. We have almost a dozen Stories From Home, and that number will be growing soon! If you would like to make a request [please complete this form](#).

We now have National Geographic's **Weird But True** and **Fun Facts** in the ASL Storytelling library! (Did you know that a baby giant anteater spends its first year of life riding piggyback on its mother?) We will continue to add to these fun resources on a weekly basis.

Also, make sure you check out all of our [recently added books](#)--one of which is the popular [TEK: The Modern Cave Boy](#).



*Vickie and Dan Coffey celebrate their graduation from the Family Signs program.*

## Family Signs Graduates Nine Families

Congratulations to our nine families who have just graduated from our Family Signs program!

Family Signs offers free, online sign language classes to Texas families who have a deaf/hard of hearing age child age birth to 21. The 14-week classes take place in the fall and spring, and we've just wrapped up our spring semester in which we served 55 families: 47 ASL families (41 English-speaking, six Spanish-speaking) and eight SEE families! For more information on this free program, please visit our Family Signs webpage.

We will be back to our 14-week semester classes starting in September. Enjoy the summer and keep signing!

## Imagination Texas Reimagined



Imagination Texas' Special Weekend for the Deaf is celebrating its 30th year! Imagination Texas is typically a two-day event bringing high school students from all over Texas to learn from Deaf/Hard of Hearing artists in hands-on workshops.

This year Imagination Texas is re-imagined into a virtual program. Students can still access workshops from a talented lineup of artists. For more information, visit <http://imaginationfortworth.org/weekend-for-the-deaf/>



Lamar University has collaborated with Texas School for the Deaf to offer classes at the TSD campus for individuals interested in earning their Master's in Deaf Education. The first TSD cohort will consist of 10 students. The program is designed to be completed within two years. For more information, including admission and program requirements, visit the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education.

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